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Free Guide

Ethical Dog Breeder Checklist

If you want a puppy from a pedigree dog breed, it's very important that you get the right dog breeder. You want an ethical dog breeder who won't profit from cruelty. So here's an essential checklist covering the basics of what you need to know.

Introducing this guide

If you want a puppy or adult dog from a specific pedigree dog breed, it's vital that you get a good quality dog breeder.

There are plenty of dog breeders out there who pile 'em high and sell 'em cheap. They are known as puppy farms or puppy mills. They don't care about the dogs – just the money you put in their pockets. They stick you with a poor quality dog, huge vets bills and enormous heartache without a second thought. Pet stores are frontmen who make sure you don't see the truth.

Even people who seem ok as breeders often don't know what they're doing.

So this free guide gives you the absolutely essential basics you need to be sure of before you buy. If you don't get the answer you want, walk away. There are plenty more puppies out there from breeders worth your time and money.

Warmest regards

Bev

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Help us stamp out puppy farms, reduce suffering and help everyone get a dog they deserve from an ethical breeder by sending out this free guide everywhere.

Failure to follow these rules will result in suffering. Help people to stop buying sad, ill, badly bred dogs from people who don't care. Please!

Beverley lives in Staffordshire in the UK with her ex-racing greyhound Vinnie, and her lurchers Kylah and Arwen. She enjoys writing, developing her website, dogs, lots of walking and spending time with her long term partner Robin.

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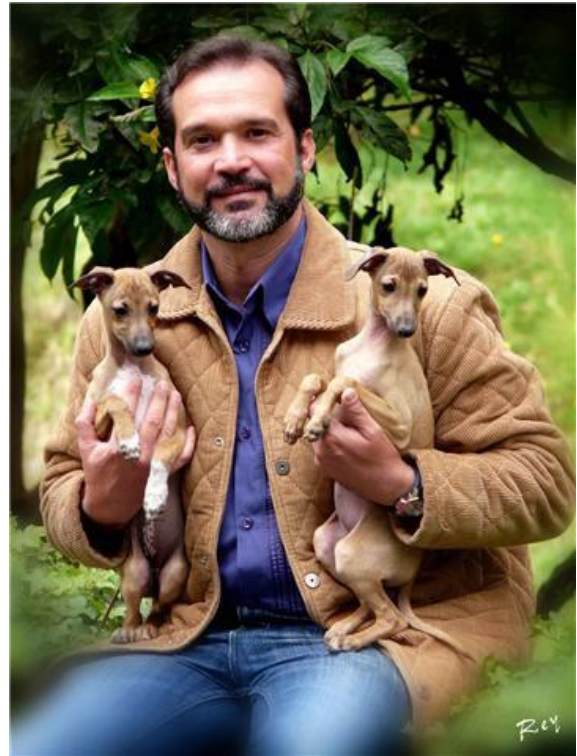
In this guide

This guide is a basic checklist to the questions you need to ask – and have properly answered – if you want a good puppy. Or if you are considering an older dog which a breeder no longer wants because their breeding/showing career has ended.

Puppy farms earn billions every year through your mistakes and lack of information. They trade on your ignorance. They breed for money, and that's all that you are – a source of money.

So to make sure you get the puppy or dog you deserve, here is a starter checklist to help you find a breeder who cares.

(Pictured here is Gabriel Valdez from Da Vinci Kennels in Colombia with his Italian Greyhound puppies)



Answers to these questions should be 'Yes'

- Is the breeder accredited by a national Kennel Club?
- Is the breeder a member of a breed club? (An organization sharing information on the breed)
- Can you see the dam (mother) and sire (father of the litter)
- Can you see the puppies with their dam (mother) all together?
- Is the dam a family pet (meaning does she live in the house as part of the family)?
- For that matter does the breeder understand you when you use the word "dam"?
- Does the breeder provide names and phone numbers of other buyers as references?
- Does the breeder still talk to other owners regularly?
- Do the parents have good



temperament (confident, friendly - not nervous, anxious or aggressive)?

- Did the breeder explain any flaws/health issues with the mother and father and their other dogs?
- Were the puppies born on the premises?
- If the breeder uses outdoor kennels and runs can you inspect them?
- Are the kennels and runs clean and sleeping areas heated/climate controlled?
- Are the dogs allowed in the breeder's house / do they live with the breeder?
- Does the breeder spend quality time with the dogs every day (exercising, socialising, one to one time)?
- Does the breeder show their dogs competitively and do they have titles?
- Does the breeder insist that the puppies be at least seven weeks old before being placed?
- Did the breeder seem happy that you are asking questions?
- Did the breeder ask you lots of questions? Questions about your lifestyle, family, experience with dogs and other pets, why you wanted a dog, why you wanted this breed? Did you feel a bit like you were applying for an enormous bank loan?



- Does the breeder personally advise on which puppy would make the best match and why?
- Will the breeder call to your house to check on the puppy?
- Did the breeder ask you whether you planned on breeding?
- Will the breeder be available to offer advice and support for as long as you have the dog?
- Does the breeder make you feel comfortable calling for advice?
- Did the breeder go over some of the problems some people have with the breed?
- Are the sire and dam (father and mother) each at least two years old?

- Were both sire and dam tested for any genetic health problems before the breeding?
- Does the breeder have information on the health testing of most of the immediate relatives of the sire and dam?
- Did the breeder offer information about health issues in the breed?
- Did the breeder tell you what they do to reduce the chances of health problems in the breed?



- Does the breeder register their dogs with health testing registries?
- Did the breeder volunteer information on the health testing, and provide proof/certificates?
- Do the certificates include OFA or Penn/Hip, CERF and thyroid?
- Will the puppies have had vaccinations before they are placed, with papers?



- Can you have your own vet check the puppy after reserving but before making a final commitment?
- Does the breeder offer a guarantee against genetic health problems?
- Did the breeder explain that a guarantee is not a promise that a genetic health problem won't occur, but a promise about what will happen if it does?

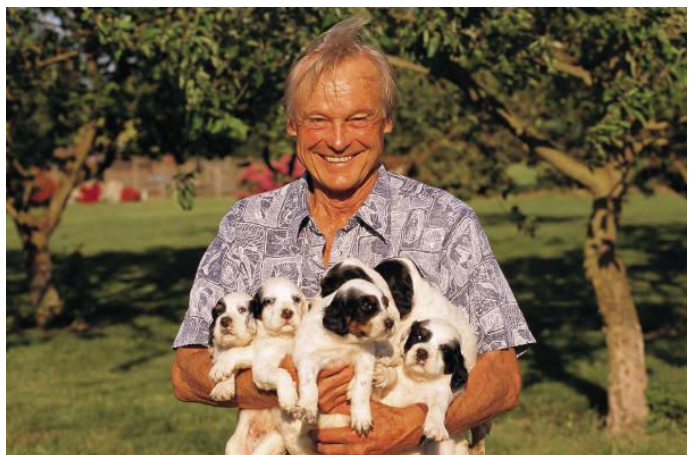
- Is the guarantee at least two years long?
- Does the guarantee allow you to keep the dog if a problem does occur?
- Does the guarantee allow you to choose at least a partial refund instead of another dog?
- Have the puppies been introduced to children? To other animals?
- Will they be socialised (answer yes) before being placed (and if so how)?
- Is the breeder concerned enough about the welfare of the dog to promise to take it back (no matter how old) if you can't keep it? (Not necessarily pay you, the purpose is to avoid the shelter, ensure good placement)

- Does the breeder believe it is important to keep in contact with puppy buyers to verify the level of success in producing a healthy dog of correct temperament?
- Does the breeder intend to follow up on the dog as it matures and ages?
- Does the breeder consider himself or herself a dedicated hobbyist to the breed?
- If the breeder advertises do they focus on the important qualities such as health and temperament?
- Does the breeder use a contract and can you inspect the contract?
- Does the breeder explain the details of the contract?
- What happens if the puppy dies or must be euthanized due to illness or disease?
- Does the contract include a requirement for you to spay or neuter?
- Will you be notified if any of the other puppies in this litter develop unexpected temperaments or disorders?
- Does the breeder provide pedigree papers (3 generation) and health certificates?
- Does the breeder provide a puppy pack?



You want answers to these questions to be "no"

- Did the breeder state or imply that puppies would be arriving/had arrived from off premises? (e.g. shipped in soon)
- Will the breeder agree to sell a puppy less than 7 weeks old?
- Was the breeder reluctant to answer questions?
- Did the breeder ask you very few questions?
- Did the breeder seem to be defensive in answering questions?
- Does the breeder offer dogs without papers/say they will be sent on to you?
- Did the breeder claim that his or her lines were entirely free of genetic health problems?



- Do any of the dams (mothers) have more than 3 litters in their lifetime?



- Do you feel pressured by the breeder into buying a puppy?
- Does the breeder promote the puppies as gifts or offer some special incentive in price to encourage a sale (discount for two)?
- Does the breeder have more than two breeds available?
- Does the breeder imply they are in the business of breeding? That is making money, profit, or income from the dogs.

- Does the breeder charge different prices depending upon the sex of the puppy?
- If the breeder advertises do they seem to focus on superficial qualities like colour or size while ignoring health testing?
- Does the guarantee require the dog die or be euthanized because of the health problem?
- Does the health guarantee require that you return the puppy?
- Is the guarantee limited to a replacement puppy from the same breeder?

The bottom line is :

You should never buy a puppy if you can't see where it came from.

What should you do next?

Check the breed is right for you!

There's no point going to a breeder and paying a fortune for a puppy if it's the wrong breed for you. Ethical breeders won't let you have one if they don't think you're right for it anyway.

You could easily see a dog you think looks 'cute' or 'handsome' and go and buy a puppy from that breed without knowing if it going to suit you. After a few weeks or months you will most likely realise with horror that it's not working out, eg:

- It's going to be too big
- It's too hard to train
- It's not good with the kids
- It's not right for your dog allergy if you have one
- It's going to cost a fortune to feed
- It needs too much exercise (the biggest problem of all)



So you end up with a 'problem' dog. Actually it's not the dog that's the problem, it's your choice of dog that is.

And then you are faced with the prospect of handing it to a rescue centre, or worse still maybe having it euthanized at the vets because you can no longer cope.

Many millions of dogs suffer every year because of our poor choices. And we suffer too.

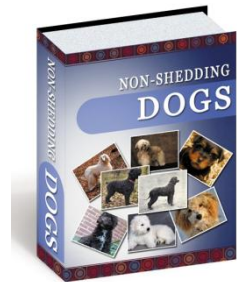
So before you buy a puppy, check the breed is right for you in the first place.

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Choose your dog the easy way

Choosing the right dog is hard. It takes a lot of skill and experience to get it right. But what if there was a shortcut to success? Well now there is. Everything you need to know, and a lot of stuff the puppy farms would rather you didn't, is all together in one place. Plus extra goodies that will make the settling in with your dog easier too.

And the great thing is you can get this immediately, be an instant expert, steal someone else's hard work and choose the right dog forever. All the steps you need to guarantee a lifetime of joy are at your fingertips. You need never worry about choosing a dog again.

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